

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 01180 311028Z

12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 310920Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4299

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT LOUIS 1180

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MP PINT

SUBJECT: FURTHER TO MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT COALITION BREAKUP

REF: PORT LOUIS 1153

1. AT YEAR'S END, AND IN WAKE OF EXPULSION PMSD MINISTERS FROM THEIR POSTS IN FORMER GRAND COALITION, SUPPORTERS OF MAJOR PARTIES, LABOR AND PMSD, HAVE NOW POLARIZED, WITH FRUSTRATIONS AND TENSIONS THAT EXISTED UNDER COALITION PUBLICLY SURFACING, ESPECIALLY IN PARTY PRESS.

2. ATTORNEY GENERAL HEIN HAS NOW ALSO BEEN RELIEVED OF HIS POST WITH HIS PORTFOLIO TRANSFERRED TO MINISTER OF EDUCATION JOMADAR. AT LUNCHEON FOR US NAVY, DECEMBER 28, JOMADAR TOLD CHARGE HE HAD JUST BEEN GIVEN POSTS OF EMPLOYMENT MINISTER AND COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AS WELL; TEMPORARILY, HE HOPED.

3. TO DATE, FOREIGN MINISTER PORTFOLIO, PREVIOUSLY HELD BY PMSD LEADER DUVAL, HAS NOT FORMALLY BEEN TURNED OVER TO ANYBODY ELSE, BUT THIS DUE TO FACT PRIMIN ESSENTIALLY RUNS HIS OWN FOREIGN POLICY IN ANY EVENT.

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PAGE 02 PORT L 01180 311028Z

4. NO FURTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTION EXPECTED DURING REMAINDER

HOLIDAY SEASON. ALTHOUGH THERE STILL SOME SPECULATION THAT ACCOMMODATION MIGHT BE REACHED BETWEEN PMSD AND LABOR PARTY LEADERS WHICH WOULD RECREATE COALITION UNDER ALTERED CIRCUMSTANCES, TREND SEEMS TO BE MORE IN DIRECTION OF SMALLER OPPOSITION PARTIEIS COMING TO TERMS WITH TWO MAJOR PARTIES.

5. IN MEANTIME, PMSD HAS BECOME OFFICIAL OPPOSITION PARTY OF MAURITIUS. LINEUP IS NOW 38 ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES ON GOVERNMENT SIDE AND 33 IN OPPOSITION. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, GOVERNMENT LAST WEEK DID NOT SEEK RENEWAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL RESTRICTIONS WITHIN STATE OF EMERGENCY WHICH EXPIRED AT END THIS MONTH (REF: PORT LOUIS A-247 DATED DECEMBER 18, 1973). THUS, UNDER CONSTITUTION, STATE OF EMERGENCY CONTINUES AUTOMATICALLY, BUT WITH CERTAIN RIGHTS RESTORED, E.G., GUARANTEES OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES TO POLITICAL DETAINEES. (REF: PORT LOUIS A-210 DATED NOVEMBER 21, 1972 RPT 72).

6. COMMENT: RUPTURE IN COALITION APPEARS ONLY TO BE FIRST CHAPTER IN STORY THAT WILL PROBABLY INVOLVE, AFTER NEW YEAR, EXTENSIVE CABINET CHANGES AND POSSIBLE PARTY DEFECTIONS. UNDERSTAND, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT ALL IFB DEPUTIES, WITH EXCEPTION OF PARTY'S LEADER, BISSONNDOYAL, MIGHT BE DISPOSED TO SWITCH OVER TO LABOR PARTY.

SULLIVAN

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